

Treble, Mrs. Lilian Masscy

Nov 1915

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HISTORICAL STATEMENT.

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Mrs. Massey-Treble's work in connection with the University was the outcome of an earnest Christian purpose which governed her whole life. In 1886 her father founded the Fred Victor Mission in memory of his deceased son Frederick Victor Massey. From the beginning she took a deep and practical interest in the work of this mission among the poorest and most destitute people of the city, and soon found that a fundamental requisite for their better life was better home conditions. With the opening of the new building at the corner of Queen and Jarvis Streets, she opened in 1896 a small cooking school in which to train the children of these families in the better preparation of their food and in the keeping of a more sanitary, comfortable and attractive home. This enterprise, commenced in a most modest and unostentatious way, rapidly extended beyond its original purpose. Ladies interested in the work of the mission soon asked the privilege of sending their domestics for training in the school and children of the public schools began to ask for admission and young women preparing for the teaching profession began to seek the advantages of the school. In four years from the date of the opening, it began to attract the attention of the Educational authorities of the city and the province, and a larger project was already in view. At this time I was closely associated with her in the work of building a residence for the women students of Victoria, provision for which had been made by her deceased father Hart A. Massey, Esq. in his will. The possibility of making this growing work a benefit to the whole country soon became evident,

the cooperation of the Minister of Education, Sir George Ross, was secured and the subject was presented to the University Senate with a view to securing a curriculum and a degree by which teachers could be qualified to teach the subject in the High Schools of the Province. The introduction of such a subject into the curriculum of the University raised serious questioning and some opposition in the minds of the more conservative members of the Senate, but in the Easter term of 1902 a curriculum was adopted leading to the degree of Bachelor of Household Science and in October of that year the first small class was enrolled in the University and after four years the first class of two members received their degrees. The class of 1915 was the tenth class in this Department, now an Honour Course in Arts and also an option in the General Course. In these ten classes fifty-nine students have taken the degree with honours in the Department and fifty-five others have taken the degree with options in this Department. At present one hundred and eighteen students are taking the undergraduate course with a view to Specialist's Certificates as teachers in this subject and thirty others are taking the General Course with options in this Department, in all one hundred and forty-eight undergraduates taking this work as a prominent feature in their course of study.

The Department had no sooner been accepted by the University than Mrs. Massey Treble began to consider the need of a suitable building for the Department on the University grounds; and in May 1904 I was authorized to send a letter to John Hosking, Esq. K.C. LL.D., then Chairman of the Board of Trustees, of which

I enclose you a copy. The selection of a site, preparation of plans and other matters caused considerable delay. But meantime the project was continually growing to larger proportions in Mrs. Massey Treble's mind. She visited institutions and laid plans for the building finally resulted in giving the University of Toronto the finest building for this Department to be found in any part of the world. The Corner Stone was laid on the 3rd of December 1908 and the building was formally opened on the 28th of January 1913, a fitting monument and culmination of a noble life work commenced in a quiet and modest way, seeking to help the poor, carried forward under the impulse of noble Christian motives, enlarged under the favouring providence of God with an intelligent grasp of its great possibilities, and an unstinted generosity in providing for its needs up to the full measure of the highest and most perfect modern ideals.

Copy of letter to John Hosking, Esq. K.C., LL.D.,
Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the University of Toronto.

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Toronto, May 6th 1914.

John Hosking, Esq. K.C., LL.D.,
Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the
University of Toronto.

Dear Sir,

Mrs. Lillian Massey Treble has intimated to me that she is willing to erect a suitable building for the Department of Household Science in the University of Toronto, if the University authorities approve of such a movement and are willing to furnish a convenient site and the Ontario Government will undertake the maintenance of the staff.

I am glad to report that after consultation with the President and Vice-President of the University, and the heads of Colleges, I find a unanimous opinion that such an addition to the equipment of the University would be a most desirable in the interest of the University education of our women students. The Senate has also expressed itself in the same direction by the establishment of a curriculum and degrees in that Department. At present two students in the second year and four in the first are pursuing this Course, and also twelve others taking a two years course for a teacher's certificate.

The Minister of Education has also intimated that the Government will undertake the maintenance of the Staff and also the running expenses when once the building is erected and equipped.

I have now the honour to present the matter through you to the Board of Trustees, requesting their cooperation in the matter of the site. The ground required need not be very extensive, though a proposal has been mooted to add to it a gymnasium for women students.

In locating it convenience of access to the existing and proposed women's residences, to the Colleges and to the Physical, Chemical and Biological laboratories are important considerations.

All which is respectfully submitted.

(Signed) N. Burwash. "

RESOLUTION REGARDING MRS. MASSEY TREBLE.

The Board of Governors herewith place on record an expression of their sense of the deep loss that the University has sustained in the death of Mrs. Massey Treble, which took place November 3rd, 1915, and at the same time of their great appreciation of the benefits that she has bestowed upon this University by her interest in the education of women students in Household Science and in particular by her magnificent gift of the Household Science Building. Mrs. Treble's interest in this department of education was maintained for many years. In 1890 she opened a small school in which the children of poor families of this city were trained in the better preparation of their food and in the keeping of a more sanitary and comfortable home. The movement shortly attracted the attention of the educational authorities of this city and the Province, and in 1902 the subject of Household Science was introduced into the curriculum of the University of Toronto particularly for the purpose of training teachers who would be qualified to deal with the subject in the High Schools of the Province. Household Science is now taught as an honours course in Arts and as an option in the General Course. Fifty-nine students have taken the B.A. degree with honours and fifty-five others with options in this department; and at present there are one hundred and forty-eight undergraduates taking this work as a part of the course for their degree.

But in order to make the work of Household Science effective Mrs. M. Treble recognised the necessity of suitable laboratories and other accommodation and in May 1904 she offered the Governors of the University to erect a building provided they would supply the site. The offer was accepted and Mrs. Treble took up the matter with great thoroughness, visiting institutions and preparing plans with minute attention as to detail. The Corner Stone was laid on December 3rd, 1908, and the building was opened in January 1913. Its beauty, the completeness of its equipment, its adaptation to its purpose and the ample addition of swimming-pool, gymnasium, and rooms which are placed at the disposal of all women students of the University, constitute a fitting monument to a noble life work commenced in a modest way and brought to completion by unstinted generosity and intelligent grasp of the great possibilities of this comparatively recent development of women's education.